

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 088362

70

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TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

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GENEVA FOR CSCE

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PAGE 02 STATE 088362

1. HIGHLIGHTS. INDOCHINESE DEVELOPMENTS CONTINUED TOPS
TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY. SOME WEDNESDAY PAPERS FRONT-
PAGED FAILURE OF PARIS ENERGY TALKS; THURSDAY NYTIMES
WASHPOST FRONTPAGE POLITBURO DROPS SHELEPIN; BALTSUN

FRONTPAGES DETENTE GOAL REAFFIRMED BY POLITBURO. COMMENT
SCATTERED.

1A. TUESDAY WASHPOST INSIDE REPORTED LEHMAN APPROVED FOR
ACDA BY SENATE VOICE VOTE WITH FEWER THAN HALF-DOZEN
SENATORS ON FLOOR; NYTIMES HAD BONN STORY, US URANIUM CURB
IS ANGERING EUROPE, CASTING DOUBT ON ENERGY ACCORD.
WEDNESDAY WASHPOST REPORTED URANIUM SHIPMENTS DELAYED
BECAUSE OF BUREAUCRATIC MISUNDERSTANDINGS BUT NOT BANNED.
WEDNESDAY NYTIMES REPORTED FRANCE OPPOSES NATO SUMMIT.

1B. THURSDAY WASHPOST NYTIMES REPORT TESTIMONY ON ATOMIC
DEFENSE; ALSO SOVIET NAVY MANEUVERS; WASHPOST REPORTS US,

EUROPE DISAGREE FROM CHEESE TO VIETNAM; NYTIMES REPORTS
EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY AGREED ON BY MINISTERS; ALSO
GISCARD SHUNS NATO SUMMIT.

2. NUCLEAR ITEMS. THURSDAY NYTIMES WASHINGTON UPI
REPORTS NIXON'S CHIEF DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATOR, GERARD
SMITH, CALLED ON US AND SOVIET UNION TO ELIMINATE
THEIR LAND-BASED MISSILE DEFENSES, TELLING SYMINGTON'S
SFRC SUBCOMMITTEE THAT GRAND FORKS AND MOSCOW ABM INSTAL-

LATIONS ARE MILITARILY INSIGNIFICANT, BUT THEIR EXISTENCE
IS CAUSE FOR CONTINUED SUSPICION. SMITH ALSO SAID
PENTAGON CONSIDERATION OF FEASIBILITY OF LIMITED NUCLEAR
WARFARE WAS LIKELY TO REQUIRE AN INCREASED EFFORT AT
CIVILIAN DEFENSE TO BE CREDIBLE, AND QUESTIONED WHETHER
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT AN ENLARGED
PROGRAM OF BOMB SHELTERS AND MASS EVACUATION PLANS. UPI
CONCLUDED BY SAYING SMITH TERMED VLADIVOSTOK PROGRESS AND
CAUTIONED AGAINST TRYING TO REVISE ITS OBJECTIVES TO
INCLUDE NEGOTIATED REDUCTIONS IN NUCLEAR ARSENALS AS
URGED BY JACKSON.

2A. THURSDAY WASHPOST MARDER IN PAGE TWO ARTICLE ACCOM-
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PAGE 03 STATE 088362

PANIED BY PHOTOS OF SMITH DOTY PANOFSKY, STRESSES THREE
SPECIALISTS TOLD SUBCOMMITTEE THAT AMERICAN NUCLEAR
DEFENSE STRATEGY IS HEADED IN CONTRADICTORY DIRECTIONS,
SMITH SAYING THAT IN ATTEMPT TO PROTECT ITSELF AGAINST
ALL SOVIET RISKS, REAL OR HYPOTHETICAL, US COULD END UP
ALMOST BACK WHERE IT STARTED WITH SOVIET UNION. SMITH
SAID THIS RESULT COULD BE CONSEQUENCE OF PURSUING
PENTAGON'S LIMITED STRATEGIC WAR COUNTERFORCE STRATEGY,
A CONCEPT WHICH COULD UNDERMINE BASIC 1972 PREMISE THAT
NEITHER SIDE COULD PREVENT THE OTHER FROM DESTROYING IT
IN A NUCLEAR ATTACK. SMITH SAID THAT SCHLESINGER, TO MAKE
SUCH A STRATEGY CREDIBLE, HAS CORRECTLY CONCLUDED THAT
POPULATION PROTECTION FROM FALLOUT WILL BE NECESSARY AND

CURRENT BUDGET FORESHADOWS A MAJOR SHELTER PROGRAM IN YEARS TO COME. THIS IN TURN COULD BUILD UP PRESSURES TO ABROGATE ABM TREATY. ACCORDING MARDER, ALL WITNESSES AGREED AT WEDNESDAY'S OPENING HEARING THAT US SHOULD PROCEED WITH SALT TWO WITHOUT INTRODUCING NEW ISSUES THAT MIGHT AROUSE SOVIET SUSPICIONS OR OTHERWISE DELAY THE GENEVA TALKS, BUT SUBCOMMITTEE WAS TOLD THAT PREPARATIONS SHOULD BE MADE FOR SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS TO PRODUCE MAJOR REDUCTIONS IN VLADIVOSTOK LEVELS. PANOFSKY SAID ANY US EFFORT TO MATCH IN SOME DETAIL ANY PERCEIVABLE SOVIET THREAT IN KIND, WOULD BE PRESCRIPTION FOR ESCALATION WHILE US AND SOVIET ALREADY ARE VASTLY

OVERARMED AND VLADIVOSTOK LEVELS ARE EXCESSIVELY HIGH, AND URGED CONGRESS TO CONCENTRATE ON ACHIEVING A SANER LEVEL OF STRATEGIC ARMAMENTS WHILE LIMITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND DEPLOYMENTS OF WEAPONS. HARVARD'S DOTY STRESSED THAT, EXCEPT FOR ABM TREATY, NO SERIOUS LIMITATIONS ARE YET IN VIEW AND NO NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN CUT BACK, NOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS STOPPED. SEN CHURCH SAID LOOKING BACK HE THINKS WE HAVE BEEN KIDDING OURSELVES ABOUT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ANY OF THE ARMS CONTROL ACCORDS, BUT PANOFSKY SAID HE BELIEVED WORLD WOULD BE IN WORSE SHAPE WITHOUT THEM.

3. EUROPE. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES HAD BRIEF PARIS SPECIAL REPORTING FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S OPPOSITION TO HOLDING A NATO SUMMIT BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL SINCE THE MOST UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 088362

BURNING ISSUES, IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND MIDEAST, ARE OUTSIDE NATO'S AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY AND IMPORTANT NATO PROBLEMS WERE ALREADY CONSIDERED AT OTTAWA LAST JUNE.

3A. THURSDAY NYTIMES PARIS SPECIAL REPORTS FRENCH GOVERNMENT SAID IF FORD AND OTHER TOP NATO LEADERS MEET, IT WILL SEND FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES INSTEAD OF GISCARD. SPECIAL ADDS NATO COUNCIL WILL MAKE FINAL DECISION ON SUMMIT PROPOSAL FRIDAY, WITH BRITAIN US GERMANY BELGIUM NORWAY IN FAVOR, AND SOME OTHERS EXPRESSING DOUBT AS THE FRENCH SAY A SUMMIT COULD INCREASE ALLIANCE STRAINS, CITING GREECE TURKEY PORTUGAL.

3B. THURSDAY WASHPOST FOUQUET BRUSSELS REPORTS THAT THE RELATIVE CALM SURROUNDING US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS HAS RECENTLY BEEN STRAINED OVER NUMBER OF ISSUES INCLUDING CHEESE, VIETNAM AND URANIUM, FOUQUET ADDING THAT

AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN SOURCES AGREE THAT NORMAL CONSULTATION IS GOING ON AND SHOULD CLEAR PROBLEMS AWAY SOON, EVEN THOUGH SOME EUROPEANS ARE ASKING IF TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS ARE ENTERING A TROUBLED NEW PHASE.

4. SOVIET UNION. THURSDAY NYTIMES WREN MOSCOW SAYS SHELEPIN'S REMOVAL IS VIEWED AS STRENGTHENING BREZHNEV'S HAND BY ELIMINATING A LONG-STANDING AND YOUNGER RIVAL IN ANTICIPATION OF THE 25TH CONGRESS OF COMMUNIST PARTY, AND SOME SOVIET INSIDERS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT SHELEPIN WAS SENT TO BRITAIN WITH KNOWLEDGE THAT HE WOULD BE EMBARRASSED THERE AND THUS PROVIDE A PRETEXT FOR HIS REMOVAL. WREN SAYS BREZHNEV SUCCEEDED IN OVERCOMING EARLIER OPPOSITION WITHIN THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP TO HIS REMOVAL.

4A. THURSDAY WASHPOST OSNOS MOSCOW REPORTS SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY REAFFIRMED DETENTE POLICIES OF BREZHNEV IN A MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT AND IN SHELEPIN'S OUSTER, ALTHOUGH OSNOS ADDS THAT DIPLOMATIC ANALYSTS AND SOVIET SOURCES ATTUNED TO THE SLIGHTEST SHIFTS IN PARTY DOCTRINE SAID THE OVERALL TONE OF APPROVAL OF DETENTE APPEARED LESS SWEEPING THAN HITHERTO AND MAY REFLECT UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 088362

UNHAPPINESS WITH US ON TRADE, MIDEAST AND INDOCHINA.

4B. THURSDAY BALTSUN PARKS MOSCOW REPORTS THAT, AFTER A PROLONGED INTERNAL REVIEW AND MUCH QUESTIONING, PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE REAFFIRMED MOSCOW'S COMMITMENT TO DETENTE AS BREZHNEV MARSHALLED THE COMMITTEE'S SUPPORT TO OVERRIDE THE DOUBTS OF CRITICS, PARTICULARLY MILITARY MEN OPPOSING NEW ARMS CONTROL MEASURES; BUT THE PARTY CHIEF DIDN'T RECEIVE THE RINGING PERSONAL ENDORSEMENT HE GOT TWO YEARS AGO AND REAFFIRMATION OF DETENTE SUPPORT WAS COUPLED WITH STRONG WARNINGS ABOUT THE THREATS FROM THE FORCES OF WAR, REACTION AND AGGRESSION. ACCORDING TO PARKS, THE COMMITTEE'S RESOLUTION WAS AIMED NOT ONLY AT QUIETING DOUBTS ABOUT POLICY BUT ENDING THE CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF CRITICISM WITHIN THE SOVIET MILITARY OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH US FURTHER LIMITING THE TWO COUNTRIES' STRATEGIC ARSENALS, PARKS QUOTING: POLITICAL DETENTE MUST BE SUPPLEMENTED BY DETENTE IN THE MILITARY FIELD AND USED FOR THE REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS AND THE STRUGGLE OF DISARMAMENT.

5. MANEUVERS. THURSDAY NYTIMES HAS WASHINGTON UPI REPORTING SOVIET NAVY HAS BEGUN A WORLDWIDE EXERCISE THAT SPECIALISTS BELIEVE WILL BE THE LARGEST IN HISTORY, PENTAGON SOURCES SAYING NEARLY 200 SHIPS ARE DISPERSED IN ATLANTIC PACIFIC MEDITERRANEAN AND INDIAN OCEANS, AND PENTAGON SOURCES SAID THIS CENTRALLY-DIRECTED EXERCISE WILL PROBABLY LAST SEVERAL WEEKS.

5A. THURSDAY WASHPOST LOCAL AP REPORTS SOVIET NAVY IS ENGAGED IN WORLDWIDE MANEUVERS THAT MAY DEVELOP INTO THE

BIGGEST IN PEACETIME HISTORY, ACCORDING TO PENTAGON SOURCES WHICH ADD THAT ALREADY ABOUT AS MANY SHIPS ARE INVOLVED AS IN MANEUVERS FIVE YEARS AGO. AP CITED SOURCES SAYING INDIAN OCEAN, INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE OIL TANKER ROUTES PASS THROUGH THESE WATERS, WILL BE A MAIN FOCUS OF THE EXERCISES. AP SAYS SINCE 1970 SOVIETS HAVE SENT TO SEA SEVERAL NEW CLASSES OF WARSHIPS, INCLUDING KARA CLASS CRUISER WHICH US NAVY CALLS THE MOST HEAVILY ARMED SURFACE COMBATANT IN THE WORLD.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 088362

6. SOYUZ. PHILA INQUIRER EDITORIAL APRIL 13, SAFETY FIRST IN SPACE DETENTE, SAYS US-SOVIET COOPERATION IN SPACE REMAINS HIGHLY DESIRABLE; WE CONTINUE TO FAVOR JOINT MISSIONS FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT. BUT THERE IS NOTHING SACRED ABOUT THE JULY TIMETABLE FOR AN INITIAL LINK; MISSION SHOULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT UNTIL THERE IS PERFORMANCE ON BOTH SIDES TO JUSTIFY CONFIDENCE OF SUCCESS. KISSINGER

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